

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the patentability of the claims as amended and as newly presented herein is respectfully solicited.

Claims 87-114 are pending in this application. Claims 87-90.94, 99, 103, 105-107, 109-111, 113 and 114 have been amended to make minor changes so as to make them better conform to American English. These amendments are editorial in nature, only and have no effect on the scope and content of these claims vis a vis patentability or the prior art. It is recognized that the examiner has great latitude in entering or not entering amendments introduced after final rejection. It is clear that amendments introducing prohibited new matter and those that introduce new issues that the examiner has not previously considered are generally not admitted after final rejection. However, the instant amendments are editorial in nature and do not introduce any new issues nor do they contain any prohibited new matter. Entry of these amendments is therefore solicited.

The invention to which the claims of this application is directed is based on the following combined configuration:

The present invention is directed for use to a system in which electronic program information about a plurality of channel services (each service usually includes a plurality of programs) is prepared, distributed to transport streams, and transmitted to users' receivers via the transport streams.

As shown in Figs. 2-6, the configuration is more particularly described as follows:

"An electronic program information preparing and transmitting apparatus for preparing electronic program information concerning a plurality of channel services (ST100 ST1O1, ..., StlO, ...) and transmitting the prepared electronic program information to users' (viewers') terminals via a plurality of transport streams ('TS1, 'TS2 TS3 ...), comprising:

electronic program information preparing means for preparing:

(i): distributing information (12) indicating which channel service should be distributed to which transport stream and

(ii): a plurality of channel services, comprising:

    a first type of electronic program information ("individual", Fig. 3 and 5) directed to each of the channel services; and

    a second type of electric program information ("general"; Fig. 4 and 6) directed to each of the channel services;

    wherein the first type of electronic program information is described with a first degree of detail (Individual; seven days in detail) and the second type of electronic program information is described with a second degree of detail (General: one day in brief), and

    wherein said first and second degrees of detail are different from each other; electronic program information distributing means (12; 13; 22; 34) for distributing, on the basis of the distributing information, to each transport stream:

    (i): the first type of electronic program information (Individual) related to each channel service (e.g., ST100) to a first transport stream (TS1) assigned to the channel service (ST100), and

    (ii): the second type of electronic program information (General) related to each channel service (ST100) to the remaining one or more transport streams (TS2, TS3, ...) other than the first transport stream (TS1); and

    transmitting means for transmitting the transport streams to which the electronic program information (Individual or General) has been distributed to the users'/viewers' terminals (TS 1, TS2, ...).

(3) Therefore, as will clearly be understood from the above description, there is a distinctive difference between the present invention and the references cited and relied upon by the examiner, i.e.: Terakado et al. (U.S. Patent 6,311,329), Yuen et al. (U.S. Patent 6,447,705), and Eyer (U.S. Patent 5,801,753).

The Terakado et al. patent discloses is an information providing apparatus and method, in

which a hierarchy structure of data A1 to A3, including data of an electronic program guide, are used, as shown in Figs. 4A to 4C. The A1 data are composed of, for example, a broadcasting date, a start time, and an end time, any of which may possibly be changed. The A2 data are composed of, for example, a program name, that will not be changed. The A3 data are composed of still pictures, moving pictures, voice and other data. This may become a comparatively large volume of data. This hierarchy structure of data A1 to A3 makes it easier to cope with changes in contents of the data including the program guide.

The Yuen et al. reference discloses an EPG in Figs. 18 and 20-24 that displays program guide data with different levels of detail related to the same program.

The Eyer patent discloses different transport streams for carrying program guide information, a trickle stream and a demand stream in col. 4, lines 36 – 54.

(4) However, even when referring to the disclosure of the Terakado et al reference in view of the disclosure of the Yuen et al. reference and the disclosure of the Eyer reference, there is no teaching of the configuration of:

electronic program information distributing means (12; 13; 22; 34) for distributing, on the basis of the distributing information, such program information to diverse transport streams in which:

(i): the first type of electronic program information (Individual) related to each channel service (e.g., ST100) is distributed to a first transport stream (TS1) assigned to the channel service (ST100), and

(ii): the second type of electronic program information (General) related to each channel service (e.g. ST100) to the remaining one or more transport streams (TS2, TS3, ...) that is/are different from the first transport stream (TS1).

One example is as follows: if you tune a certain channel service (for example Washington DC TV) that is being transmitted through a first transport stream, you can see, at the same time, on your TV, both the first type of electronic program information (Individual), related to the tuned channel service (e.g. Washington DC TV) and the second type of electronic program

information (General), related to other channel services (New York TV, California TV, Florida TV, Chicago TV, etc.). In that situation, the EPG information directed to Washington DC TV is displayed with a higher/greater degree of detail (more detailed), while the EPG information concerning New York TV, California TV, Florida TV, Chicago TV, etc. is displayed with a lower/lesser degree of detail (i.e., simpler, less detailed). Therefore, the viewer is able to obtain the detailed EPG information about Washington DC TV to which the viewer showed an interest and obtain simple, more general EPG information about the remaining TV broadcast stations which have not been singled out by the viewer. The viewer is therefore still able to know general EPG information about the remaining stations. This enables the viewer to see what is happening on other stations and to therefore change channels if the programs on the other channels seem more interesting.

From this situation, if the viewer changes their channel to tune into New York TV the detailed EPG information (Individual) about New York TV will be displayed together with more general EPG information (General) about other stations such as (Washington DC TV, California TV, Florida TV, Chicago TV, etc.).

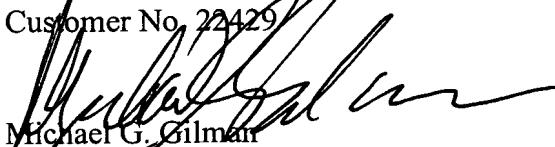
The Yuen patent merely discloses different levels of detail related to the same program and Eyen discloses mere different transport streams. Accordingly, even combining Yuen and Eyen into Terakado will not produce a combined combination of detailed EPG information (the first type of electronic program information) that is directed to the channel service (broadcast station) to which the viewer has tuned, and more general EPG information (the second type of electronic program information) related to the remaining service channels (broadcast stations) to which the viewer has not specifically tuned. These are significant differences that warrant patenting.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and arguments, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and such action is solicited.

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Docket No. 041-2048

May 26, 2004

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